

## History is the constant, amidst changing state government

Since I joined the staff of the South Dakota State Historical Society in 1987, I have worked under five governors, 10 department secretaries, and two Society directors, before being appointed director myself. Prior to coming to work at the Society, I worked for Secretary of State Alice Kundert. I liked working in the Capitol, but my services were “no longer needed” with the Secretary of State when Alice stepped down. That is just part of politics, and the push out the door, I realized later, landed me in a better place.

Secretary of Education and Cultural Affairs James O. Hansen reached out to me to apply for a new position—executive assistant—with the State Historical Society. I was hired by Society Director J.R. Fishburne and charged with “straightening out the budget.” At that time, the Society had several museums and offices located outside of Pierre, and it seemed that each believed they had an unlimited budget, or the main office would pick up the difference at the end of the fiscal year. Well, it does not work that way, but we eventually made the budget work. The South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center was also under construction, and the South Dakota State Historical Society Endowment, now Foundation, was taking on the task of raising funds to design, fabricate and install the primary exhibition in the Center. I was assigned to serve as executive director of what was then known as the South Dakota Heritage



**From the SDSHS Director**

*Jay D. Vogt*

Fund. Gov. George S. and First Lady Linda Mickelson were invested in the success of the new history center and were active with fund raising and many special events.

It all seems a blur, but John Bonaiuto replaced Dr. Hansen as department secretary, and following the tragic death of Governor Mickelson in 1993, Walter Dale Miller became governor. In the meantime, J.R. Fishburne resigned to take a prestigious position in his home state of Virginia, and William J. Janklow assumed his third term as governor. He appointed Karon Schaack and later Ray Christensen as department secretary and

**See “Vogt,” Page 2**

## Field Reports

The 28th Annual Casey Tibbs Foundation Tribute Dinner honored six nominees in November at the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center in Fort Pierre.

The following nominees were honored:

Rodeo Cowgirl Great: Renee Kost Sutton of Burke

Rodeo Cowboy Great: Jesse Bail of Camp Crook

Past Rodeo Great: Ote Berry, formerly of Scenic, now of Checotah, OK

Rodeo Promoter: Joe Schomer of Fort Pierre

Ranch Cowboy Family: Joe Thorne of Pierre

Rodeo Animal Athlete: Tipperary – owned by Charlie Wilson

The nominees’ photos and biographies have been added to the permanent “Wall of Fame” located in the Center.

####

The annual Holiday Open House at the Smith-Zimmerman Museum in Madison is from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17.

The afternoon of celebration features Richard Wolf singing holiday melodies. Also included is the Lebanon Family Train, along with a visit from Santa and his sleigh for family photos. There will be plenty of food and hot drinks for everyone, so bundle up your loved ones and visit the museum!

**See “More,” Page 2**

## More Field Reports

Continued from Page 1

The winners for superior papers presented at the 2016 conference were announced at October's West River History Conference in Rapid City:

Patti Storm Student Award for Excellence: Ellie Froschmayer: "Crazy Horse in American History"

Adult Category: 3rd Place — Randy Bender: "The Buffalo Soldiers: Their Beginnings, Dakota Connections, and the National Parks"

2nd Place — Lilah Morton Pengra: "Monuments and Memorial to Isaiah Dorman - Little Big Horn Casualty"

1st Place — Robert Campbell: "1974: Land-Grant Research, Rephotography and Republicans in the Black Hills Forest"

Personal Family Memories & Experiences: 2nd Place — June Ring: "Campfire and Traveling Songs"

1st Place — Jean Kary: "1941 - Vacation in Yellowstone Park"

####

The 53rd annual Christmas Festival at the W. H. Over Museum in vermillion was held on Sunday, Dec. 3. Featuring Vermillion's Only Tuba Band and Mr. & Mrs. Claus, the event also included vendors, a country store and children's entertainment.

####

Randy Maas is the new president of the Minnehaha County Historical Society in Sioux Falls. He replaces Richard Foster, who remains on the board of directors. You can now find the society on the Web at minnehahahistory.org.

####

The Historic Homestake Opera House in Lead hosted the 2017 Festival of Trees Vintage Holiday Celebration Nov. 30-Dec. 2.

Billed as "The oldest of its kind in the Black Hills," the original Festival of Trees was hosted in December 1982 in the "Theater Built by a Gold Mine" and has continued on through the years as a popular Christmastime event in the mining community of Lead.

Amidst a beautifully decorated lobby, foyer, and theater, patrons to the 3-day event enjoyed free cocoa, hot apple cider, cookies and mingling through the building, touring through heavily decorated Christmas trees, wreaths, and unique vintage items.

Special to the event this year was the newly restored lower walls of the interior of the theater. The public was invited to explore the new Interpretive Exhibit on the second floor that showcases the entire history of the Opera House.

## Deadwood Fund grant applications announced

The South Dakota State Historical Society announces that the applications for the first round of the 2018 Deadwood Fund grant program are due on Feb. 1, 2018, for work beginning no earlier than May 1, 2018.

Grant forms are available online at <http://history.sd.gov/Preservation/FundingOpps/FundingOpportunities.aspx>.

The program is designed to encourage large-scale restoration or rehabilitation of historic properties by individuals, organizations or public agencies, according to Jay D. Vogt, director of the State Historical Society, whose historic preservation office administers the program.

Grants will be awarded in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000. The grant amount must be matched at least on a dollar-for-dollar basis from non-federal and nonstate sources. Nonprofit organizations will be allowed to use in-kind services for one-half of their match.

For more information, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at 605-773-3458.

---

## Vogt, Continued from Page 1

selected former legislator Mary Edelen as Society Director. He appointed me State Historic Preservation Officer in 1996. After his re-election in 1998, Governor Janklow then appointed me Deputy Director of the State Historical Society, and I took on the day-to-day operations of the Society.

With the election of M. Michael Rounds as governor in 2002, he reorganized state government and created the "super department" of Tourism and Economic Development to which the Society moved. John Calvin was the first department secretary, and I had a particularly candid and robust relationship with him. Marty Davis served as acting secretary for the new department more than once, and James Hagen and Richard Benda later served as department secretary, respectively. With the election of Dennis Daugaard as governor in 2010, he divided the "super department" in half, and the Society went with the Department of Tourism under James Hagen's leadership (the second time he was my direct supervisor). Following his re-election as governor, Daugaard made the Society part of the Department of Education. Melody Schopp became the Society's new department secretary in 2015. The Society went full-

circle—back to education. However, Secretary Schopp is retiring this month, and she will be replaced by Don Kirkegaard. I will miss working with her and wish her the best in retirement; however, the Society welcomes Kirkegaard as our new department secretary.

However, through all the "moves" in state government, the South Dakota State Historical Society is still focused on collecting, preserving, interpreting and promoting the history of the people of South Dakota. History is the constant. Since 1989, our main headquarters is located at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center, and the Society continues to operate in five offices: archaeology (Rapid City), archives, historic preservation, museum, and research and publishing. I must admit I love this job, and I am so fortunate to work with outstanding office directors, a great staff, tremendous colleagues throughout the country, and terrific and dedicated local history leaders. We are all about history, and history is the constant. Thank you, and Happy Holidays from the South Dakota State Historical Society! jdv